

Message Text

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APPROVED BY AF/W-JLLOUGHRAN

AF-JJBLAKE

S/S- MR. EALUM

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R 220034Z MAR 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: PFOR, LI

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT TOLBERT

1. PLEASE DELIVER FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT FORD TO PRESIDENT TOLBERT: QUOTE DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: I HAVE RECEIVED YOUR LETTER OF FEBRUARY 24 CONTAINING YOUR VIEWS ON MY NOMINATION OF AMBASSADOR NATHANIEL DAVIS AS ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR AFRICAN AFFAIRS, AND YOUR CONCERNS OVER UNITED STATES POLICY TOWARDS AFRICA. THE FRANKNESS WITH WHICH YOU HAVE WRITTEN IS CONSISTENT WITH THE EXCELLENT AND HISTORIC RELATIONS BETWEEN LIBERIA AND THE UNITED STATES. IT IS IN THE SAME SPIRIT OF FRANKNESS THAT I WOULD LIKE TO ADDRESS THE POINTS YOU MADE IN YOUR LETTER.

FIRST, LET ME SAY THAT I FIRMLY BELIEVE THAT AMBASSADOR DAVIS HAS OUTSTANDING QUALIFICATIONS-FOR THE POSITION OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR AFRICAN AFFAIRS. SECRETARY KISSINGER OUTLINED THESE QUALIFICATIONS IN HIS LETTER
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TO SECRETARY GENERAL ETEKI OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN

UNITY. I WILL NOT, THEREFORE, BELABOR THEM HERE SINCE
A COPY OF THE SECRETARY'S LETTER HAS BEEN CONVEYED TO YOUR
GOVERNMENT BY THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN MONROVIA. I WOULD
ASK ONLY THAT YOU GIVE SECRETARY KISSINGER'S LETTER YOUR

CAREFUL CONSIDERATION. IT WAS WRITTEN WITH MY APPROVAL
AND REFLECTS MY DISMAY OVER THE GRAVE INJUSTICE THAT HAS
BEEN DONE TO A VERY FINE INDIVIDUAL AND PUBLIC SERVANT.

AS FOR THE POLICY OF THE UNITED STATES TOWARDS AFRICA,
I BELIEVE THE RECORD SPEAKS FOR ITSELF IN ECONOMIC, HUMAN
AND POLITICAL TERMS. I BELIEVE THAT THE UNITED STATES,
WHICH HAD NO COLONIAL INTERESTS IN AFRICA AND WHICH
WORKED IN THE UNITED NATIONS AND ELSEWHERE FOR THE DE-
COLONIZATION OF THE CONTINENT, CAN BE PROUD OF THE CON-
TRIBUTION AMERICANS HAVE MADE TO THE ACHIEVEMENT OF
AFRICAN INDEPENDENCE AND THE RESOLUTION OF AFRICAN

PROBLEMS. THERE IS SCARCELY A COUNTRY IN AFRICA WHICH
HAS NOT BENEFITTED FROM THE SUSTAINED GENEROSITY
OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.

THE UNITED STATES HAS NOT ALWAYS BEEN ABLE TO DO ALL THAT
WE OR OUR AFRICAN FRIENDS MIGHT HAVE WISHED, BUT THERE
CAN BE NO QUESTION OF THE CONSTANCY OR DIRECTION OF OUR
EFFORTS OR BASIC GOODWILL. AMERICAN ASSISTANCE TO THE
DROUGHT-STRICKEN SAHEL, WHICH REPRESENTED OVER ONE-THIRD
OF THE TOTAL INTERNATIONAL EFFORT, IS ONLY THE MOST RECENT
EXAMPLE OF THAT GOODWILL.

FINALLY, I AM CERTAIN THAT AMBASSADOR DAVIS, IN LEAGUE
WITH OUR AFRICAN FRIENDS, CAN STRENGTHEN UNDERSTANDING
AND COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND AFRICA.
I KNOW THAT LIBERIA UNDER YOUR LEADERSHIP WILL PLAY A
SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN HELPING HIM TO DO SO. SINCERELY,
GERALD R. FORD UNQUOTE.

2. DEPARTMENT DOES NOT PLAN TO RELEASE TEXT, BUT HAS NO
OBJECTION IF GOL WISHES TO DO SO.

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3. ORIGINAL TEXT BEING POUCHED. INGERSOLL

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To: MONROVIA
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